



Ewa MIKUŁA

About the artist

Ewa Mikuła is a Polish dramaturg and theatre director. She is a graduate of Theatre Directing with a specialization in Theatre Dramaturgy from the AST National Academy of Theatre Arts in Kraków and Theatre Studies from the Jagiellonian University. Within the framework of documentary theatre, she explores everyday narratives, using them to reflect larger societal processes.

Mikuła made her debut alongside Piotr Froń with an autobiographical piece about her working-class heritage, titled *Work, Work*, published in the monthly magazine *Dialog*. She has worked as a dramaturg and playwright on multiple productions, including *Swans*, directed by S.T. Berg at the Korea International Accessible Dance Festival (KIADA) in Seoul in 2024. In Bratislava, Mikuła created the performance *Adulthood*, which focuses on alternative education methods, based on a three-year documentary process with Polish and Slovak youth (*Divadlo Ludus*, 2023). For the past two years, she has conducted artistic research on ethnic minorities and language as part of the European programme Future Laboratory, during residencies in Luxembourg, Romania, and France. Her latest project, the play *TOĆ*, explores the boundaries of speech in her native Silesian ethnic minority language, seen through the eyes of young female speakers.

About the research

Ewa Mikuła's research within the Future Laboratory project focuses on the identity of ethnic minorities in contemporary Europe. As a member of the Silesian minority – Poland's largest ethnic group not officially recognized by law – she sets out to explore how ethnic minorities and local groups shape their identities through art and language. This journey allowed her to gain a new perspective on her own minority and deepen her understanding of other ethnic minorities and local communities in a global context.

During three artistic residencies – at Teatrul Tineretului in Piatra Neamț (Romania), Théâtres de la Ville in Luxembourg, and Théâtre National de Strasbourg (Alsace, France) – she engaged with local minority communities through workshops, interviews, and creative collaborations. Each residency had a specific focus:

In Romania, she asked Roma musicians how their music reflects cultural identity in today's economic and globalized reality.

In Luxembourg, she investigated language dynamics in the multicultural arts scene, concentrating on the role of Luxembourgish.

In Alsace, she studied the use and preservation of the Alsatian language in local institutions and non-institutional theatre.

The project revealed tensions between the self-perception of local communities and external perceptions influenced by historical and social contexts. It also highlighted how these communities preserve their cultural heritage while navigating challenges such as assimilation and marginalization.

About the presentation

Ewa Mikuła's presentation offers a bird's-eye view of her research journey. Inspired by the contrasts she encounters—questioning her role, the research itself, and the “right” way to approach artist residencies—she has developed a unique method as an artist-researcher. In her personal lecture, Mikuła shares her approach, reflecting on the lessons learned from people she met along the way, the commonalities she observes regarding ethnic minorities, and her own experiences as a member of an ethnic minority. The lecture raises questions about the ethics of creating art based on studied communities and explores methods of constructing contemporary artistic narratives.



- Teatrul Tineretului Piatra-Neamț: 18th – 29th October 2022
- Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg: 2nd – 13th May 2023
- Théâtre National de Strasbourg: 2nd – 14th October 2023